

THE JOURNAL.

LUCIAN SWIFT, J. S. McLAIN,
MANAGER, EDITOR.SUBSCRIPTION TERMS
Payable to The Journal Printing Co.
Delivered by Mail.
One copy, one month..... 10.35
One copy, three months..... 1.00
One copy, six months..... 2.00
One copy, one year..... 4.00
Saturday Eve. edition, 20 to 26 pages. 1.50
Delivered by carrier
One copy, one week..... 8 cents
One copy, one month..... 35 cents
Single copy..... 2 centsSUPREME COURT AND THE MERGER
There is a feeling among lawyers and others in Washington who followed the hearing before the supreme court on the application of the state of Minnesota to bring suit against the Northern Securities company, that the court will refuse the application and refuse to take jurisdiction. This is expected to come about through a conclusion by the supreme court that the state courts have jurisdiction and that the state should commence there before coming to the highest court in the land for relief. Of course, the only effect of that would be to throw the suit back into the supreme court of Minnesota, where, probably, in some different form, it would begin over again and doubtless ultimately reach the tax assessor.

But another reason suggested for the refusal of the supreme court to assume jurisdiction is that if that court can decently avoid it it will not take original jurisdiction of the merger because of the precedent it would establish. The supreme court may conclude that if they take jurisdiction of this case they will be flooded with similar litigation from other states that have trust of their own to deal with. The result would be the dumping upon the supreme court of a large amount of business which, in large part, at least, might be taken care of in the lower courts. This possibility of overloading the supreme court with litigation of this kind, if the Northern Securities case is admitted, is well calculated to induce the court not to take original jurisdiction if it can be avoided. This, of course, has nothing to do with the merits of the merger case, but is a feature of the situation of some interest.

Who shall have the right to carry the golden spurs at the coronation? The court of claims, sitting in London to determine, who shall do the various silly acts at the coronation of King Edward is wrestling with this "most important matter," as the English papers term it. The Earl of Loudoun and Lord Grey de Ruthven are contending for the honor, and have been setting forth their genealogies to prove their claims. We shall get an "uxtry" just as soon as the court arrives at a decision.

WORKING FOR PEACE
Heretofore all announcements of negotiations for a basis upon which to bring the Anglo-Boer war to a conclusion and restore much needed peace to war-harried South Africa, have proven false. The combatants have refused to abate the ferocity of war. There was a personal conference last year between Lord Kitchener and the Boer general, Botha, on the subject of a settlement, but the matter was dropped.

The announcement by Mr. A. J. Balfour in the British commons that the government of Holland had made proposals for peace in behalf of the Boers, Dr. Kuyper, the premier of the Netherlands being the intermediary, and that the cabinet had the matter under consideration, embodies some hope that a settlement may at last be reached. It is hardly probable that Dr. Kuyper would act in this business without having consulted the Boer delegates in the Netherlands, Messrs. Fischer and Wolmarans and Dr. Leyds, who have already had a conference with Dr. Bisschop, who was sent by the London Daily News to ascertain their views, and promised to take the matter into consideration. The subject discussed was the disposition of the Boers to seek a settlement like that proposed by Lord Rosebery in a recent speech, viz., autonomy on the Canadian model for the Transvaal and Orange Free State; a reasonable extension of the military occupation and complete amnesty for the Boers and the Cape Colony insurgents. The Boer delegates referred to are in the confidence of Kruger. The mission of Dr. Kuyper would hardly have been undertaken unless he had some intimation from the delegates that they wished such office performed by the Netherlands government.

It is singular that the absurdity of this position does not suggest itself to those who offer it. It, instead of reducing the tax rate proportionately to the increased valuation, it should remain as it is, and the amount of taxes collected should be raised in proportion to the rise in valuation, why don't the people who levy taxes do it? Why are they not continually shoving up our tax rate, and doing it to such a degree that we are paying three or four times what we pay now? It would be no easier under the proposed law to collect \$9,000,000 in Minneapolis, as compared with the \$3,000,000 or so that we collect now, than it would be to raise the taxes that much now, and everybody knows that could not be done. No administration of city, county or state affairs would dare to do anything of the kind.

If we are going to tax all property, real and personal, it certainly ought to be taxed on a level of actual value with proper offsets, and if we are going to tax it on that level we are certainly going to bring the rate down to a reasonable one. It is absurd to assume that we are not. Of course as new communities grow the necessary revenue increases, but beyond the natural increase there is no reason to expect any heavier taxation under the full valuation assessment than under an assessment of one-third or one-quarter of the actual value. And it certainly makes for equitable distribution of the tax burden when the actual value of property is taken as a basis of settlement instead of the assessor's guess or the owner's depreciation of his own holdings for taxation purposes.

However, as The Journal has already indicated, it will be quite satisfied if the tax law is made to go into effect a year hence and an opportunity is afforded in the meantime to adopt the constitutional amendments under which a new code may be perfected before this one becomes operative. And this it urges in the hope that under such a condition of things, with this law on the statute books, the people who are so much concerned today about its effect may not forget that the amendments are to be voted upon when the election day comes. There is every reason to believe that under such conditions the amendments may be adopted, but without the pressure which the existence of this law upon the statute books would bring to bear upon the voters there is no reason to expect the adoption of these amendments or any progress toward tax reform, and we might as well give up the whole business.

Governor Van Sant's reply to the business men who asked him to desist in his effort to prevent Mr. Hill from violating

the state law, was very moderate and dignified, but, perhaps, for that reason all the more forcible. It seems strange, indeed, that the governor of any state should have to explain to responsible citizens why he complies with his oath of office to enforce a law—particularly a law which has been on the statute books for over a quarter of a century, and the violation of which has been successfully resisted in the courts once before. But we are not likely again to meet with an incident of this kind in our history.

Minneapolitans are a plain and sober people, little given to display. The veracious tax rolls show that they own only \$72,000 worth of jewels. As this is about 35 cents apiece, it can not be charged that they are luxuriant or given to spending their money for baubles. But their memories!

ANOTHER INSUBSTANTIAL BOGIE
We are told that if the new tax code should go into effect without amendment there would be a "run" on the banks, especially the savings banks.

It is assumed that, fearing the assessment of their deposits, depositors would hurriedly withdraw them in order to put them in some place not so easily accessible to the tax assessor.

This assumption involves some others. These are that these bank depositors have made up their minds to commit perjury, or that they intend to send their money out of the state. If they withdraw it to put it in stockings and hide it from the assessor they will injure themselves. They will be choosing to get no revenue from their deposits, whereas if they left them in the banks they would get something, probably not less than 2 per cent where the rate of interest is 3.

Nor is it certain that the generally honest persons who have bank accounts will readily rush into perjury, now that it is understood that it is no longer to be winked at or condoned. Tax dodging perjury is very grave act in the eyes of the new tax law. As for getting the money out of the state, that is no easy matter for the small depositor. He doesn't know how to go about it, and if he should attempt it he would find that agents' commissions would eat up the petty revenue to be derived from his small capital.

He may, it is true, take his money out of the bank and invest it in real estate. But that will be a gradual operation, with no suggestion of a run. And who will object if the bank depositors choose to invest their money in real estate?

If the tax bill is as bad as the commission say in their report, and if it should be passed this winter, with the expectation of repealing it next winter, this would be an invitation for every boodler and leghammer in Minnesota to spend all the money he could bear, borrow or steal for election to the legislature, in order to enrich himself for life by refusing his vote for repeal until he had been bought off. Are the members of the legislature looking for this kind of colleagues? Would they not rather pluck up courage and say plainly what they believe about the tax bill?—The Tribune.

This paragraph the Tribune apparently thought a good deal of since it printed it in black-faced type on its editorial page. Aside from the gratuitous insult which it offers to the members of the legislature, it looks like an intimation that those who are opposed to tax reform of any kind, are ready to go into the market and buy what they want. What a chance they would have, too, if these poor amendments were left to their tender mercies, without the protection which the passage of the law, to go into effect in 1903, would afford.

TAMMANY AND BRYAN

The Tammany Times, late organ of the departed Croker and organ of Mr. Lewis Nixon, Croker's successor as chieftain of Tammany, extends to Colonel Bryan the following cordial invitation:

If William Jennings Bryan will move his editorial paper and his democratic personality to the city of New York, he will need to make but one more, and that to Washington, as President of the United States. Think it over, brother Bryan, and be assured there are millions of votes in the state as we are now.

Tammam appears to be willing to take Bryan and all he represents as the head of the democratic party.

It is evident that there is much confusion in the democratic mind as yet as to what democratic principles are. A number of democratic organs are coupling Bryan's name with the term "silver and disaster," as if the two were synonymous, and they talk in a dastardly way about the "dead issues" to which many democratics cling. The Atlanta Constitution vigorously denies that the democratic party was captured by the populists in 1896 and 1900, but "stood upon its own platform, supported its own candidate, and was defeated by a minority republican party augmented by enough deserters from the Boers and the Cape Colony insurgents. The Boer delegates referred to are in the confidence of Kruger. The mission of Dr. Kuyper would hardly have been undertaken unless he had some intimation from the delegates that they wished such office performed by the Netherlands government.

Whatever these gentlemen may do, however, in the way of peace negotiations will be useless, unless the commandos afield and fighting in South Africa are in sympathy with the movement. Kruger and the delegates, temporarily residing in the Netherlands, may settle the affair satisfactorily, but it is extremely probable that the Boers afield will reiterate the democracy deliberately supported populism. Why did certain democrats desert that platform except for the reason, as they said, that it did not represent democratic principles?—Jeffersonian principles? The Constitution calls upon the party to get together on a basis of principles "essential to the Jeffersonian scheme of republican government," which Bryan in no way represents.

Here is an "Ex-Lieutenant" Governor Hausey F. Black of Pennsylvania saying: "None of us who supported the Chicago and Kansas City platforms and followed with joy and pride that glorious tribune of the common people of America, William J. Bryan, feel the smallest sense of regret for our action in those days which tried men's souls. We would gladly do the same again." This looks very like a speech for Bryan's candidacy in 1904. Following so soon after Bryan's eastern swing "round the circle," the invitation by Tammany and Black's hearty endorsement and the Bryan club endorsements in eastern cities look as if a concerted effort is making to re-energize the Bryan boom of 1900.

Tammany's open offer to propel Bryan into the presidency is interesting.

Whether Bryan will move The Comptroller to New York under this pressure remains to be seen. His western supporters might set it down as a movement into the arms of plutocracy. They have seen the Hon. Charles A. Towne go to New York and become the willing partner of oil plutocrats and the "money power," and they will ask themselves if their beloved "tribune of the common people" will prove against the fascinations of plutocracy when even Towne, a former tribune, yields to the subtle influence. Even Tammany itself is a money power of the most dangerous kind for the political liberty of the people.

The house committee yesterday reported the bill for the permanent establishment of a census bureau. Notwithstanding Congressman Gillett's statement previously made, that "we are voting simply to keep our pets in office," no effort of a serious nature has been made to dislodge the pets. The reported bill puts the clerks into the civil service without fur-

ther examinations. Some of them are fit, others are not. Those who are fit should have no trouble in passing the examination. Some congressmen evidently feel that their pets would fall in an examination. The bill as framed is a nice thing for the clerks, but, as Mr. Maddox of Georgia asked, "How about the people who pay the expenses?" Here we are going in for a permanent bureau loaded up with clerks who are afraid of examinations as to their fitness.

The democratic situation is interesting. They are blind as bats to their best opportunities and prefer to grub in a charnel house for dead men's bones.

ANONYMOUS ACTIVITY

The enemies of the proposed tax law are very active. One of the evidences of their activity comes to members of the Hennepin delegation in the form of a circular purporting to be issued by the Federated Trades and Labor Assembly of Duluth, the principal item of which is a protest against the taxation of grain in store. It is true that the circular begins with a reference to the personal property exemption and urges that it be restored to \$100, but it presently gets away from that subject and devotes a greater part of its space to the grain question and the taxation of vessels registered at Duluth.

It probably does not make very much difference to the men who load and unload the ships at Duluth harbor whether they are registered in Duluth or Buffalo; nor is it customary for Trades and Labor assemblies to display much agitation over possible hardships imposed by taxation upon capitalists engaged in the grain business.

This is not to say that the protest raised against the taxation of grain in store may not be justified, but the circular referring to it is so palpably inspired by other than labor interests that it would seem to be quite as well if every interest antagonizing this bill were to come out and fight it in the open instead of employing the name of a labor organization through which to reach the members of the legislature.

One of the leading business houses in Fergus Falls sends to The Journal a copy of an anonymous circular with this

name: "We are in receipt of the attached unsigned circular. We naturally look with suspicion upon a plea for the widow and orphan sent in this disinterested way. We do not think any widow or orphan sent it, but that, perhaps, some old bald-headed tax-dodger did. Avowed and frank criticism of the tax law is perfectly legitimate and in order, but the distribution of anonymous circulars such as this one, entitled 'To the Tax Payers of Minnesota,' and addressed to this business house in Fergus Falls, is not of that kind. It undertakes to misrepresent the facts with regard to the bill and to make the farmer and the country merchant believe that they are particularly discriminated against by this law, the cardinal principle of which is the taxation of all property at a rate based upon its actual value. As the communication from Fergus Falls states, the large amount of anxiety developed in behalf of the widow and orphan is unusual, and may well create suspicion when it takes the form of anonymous circulars of the kind described.

General Bell says that one woman is more efficient in pacifying the Philippines than a company of soldiers. Let us marry off the whole army in the Philippines. That will be equivalent to an army of 4,000,000 men, according to General Bell's ideas.

CHARACTERISTIC.

The scene was well under way and the spirits were rapping on the table.

"Who is that knocking?" inquired Mrs. Crane, with a startled air.

"It gives the name of John," replied the Happy Medium.

"Ah, to be sure," replied Mrs. Crane, "that's him, for sure. John always was a knocker."

CASUALLY OBSERVED.

We will concede that both England and Germany were our friends in 1898. And Spain too.

The coal men have perfected a merger. Now we may look for prices to drop.

The groundhog joke is beginning to stir unceasingly in its pinegoole.

A London store hires a professional shopper to put the clerks to inconvenience and report them if they become disreputable.

Kermit Roosevelt is said to have "kicked" a boy at his school. Kermit has been going a-gaga with the gloves and known the value of the loose mitt and the low guard.

The coal men have perfected a merger. Now we may look for prices to drop.

The groundhog joke is beginning to stir unceasingly in its pinegoole.

THE NONPAREIL MAN

The Nonpareil Man

Characteristic.

The scene was well under way and the spirits were rapping on the table.

"Who is that knocking?" inquired Mrs. Crane, with a startled air.

"It gives the name of John," replied the Happy Medium.

"Ah, to be sure," replied Mrs. Crane, "that's him, for sure. John always was a knocker."

CASUALLY OBSERVED.

We will concede that both England and Germany were our friends in 1898. And Spain too.

The coal men have perfected a merger.

Now we may look for prices to drop.

The groundhog joke is beginning to stir unceasingly in its pinegoole.

A London store hires a professional shopper to put the clerks to inconvenience and report them if they become disreputable.

Kermit Roosevelt is said to have "kicked" a boy at his school. Kermit has been going a-gaga with the gloves and known the value of the loose mitt and the low guard.

The coal men have perfected a merger.

Now we may look for prices to drop.

The groundhog joke is beginning to stir unceasingly in its pinegoole.

THE JEWS IN RUSSIA

The JEWS IN RUSSIA

Correspondence London Standard.

The JEWS IN RUSSIA are again being harassed with renewed rigidity and unremitting severity of the government, since the personal measures are not confined to any one place.

I have already noted the order about Jewish stage people of all classes being prevented from moving freely about the country in their respective and professional calling.

This measure took the form of established order to apply the clauses of the law relating to Jews.

But there are other means of making things uncomfortable for the race, which Russians have, because they fear them more than even that.

Dr. Gunnison is out with the first syllable of his name after the man who lunches on pie and coffee. Yet the doctor is likely to prove a good man.

And they shall drink any deadly thing and it shall not hurt them.

In the opinion of the Boston Herald, an operation for appendicitis is a very simple matter. "You go to sleep, quietly and pleasantly, in the bed of the Hospital, and by and by wake up. Do you suppose that it is?"

Kermit Roosevelt is said to have "kicked" a boy at his school. Kermit has been going a-gaga with the gloves and known the value of the loose mitt and the low guard.

The coal men have perfected a merger.

Now we may look for prices to drop.

The groundhog joke is beginning to stir unceasingly in its pinegoole.

THE JEWS IN RUSSIA

The JEWS IN RUSSIA

Corporation of the Jewish people of Russia.

The JEWS IN RUSSIA are again being harassed with renewed rigidity and unremitting severity of the government, since the personal measures are not confined to any one place.

I have already noted the order about Jewish stage people of all classes being prevented from moving freely about the country in their respective and professional calling.

This measure took the form of established order to apply the clauses of the law relating to Jews.

But there are other means of making things uncomfortable for the race, which Russians have, because they fear them more than even that.

Dr. Gunnison is out with the first syllable of his name after the man who lunches on pie and coffee. Yet the doctor is likely to prove a good man.

And they shall drink any deadly thing and it shall not hurt them.

In the opinion of the Boston Herald, an operation for appendicitis is a very simple matter.

The coal men have perfected a merger.

Now we may look for prices to drop.

The groundhog joke is beginning to stir unceasingly in its pinegoole.

THE JEWS IN RUSSIA

The JEWS IN RUSSIA

Corporation of the Jewish people of Russia.